

Claims

What is claimed is:

1 1. A composite buoyancy unit slidably interposed between support members of a buoyancy
2 can comprising a plurality of stem side female recesses and exterior surface female recesses, the stem side
3 female recesses shaped to mate with rings surrounding a stem pipe and the exterior surface female
4 recesses shaped to accept fasteners used in securing the composite buoyancy unit to the support members.

1 2. A multi-layer composite buoyancy unit radially slidable between the support members of
2 a buoyancy can and having outer surfaces engaging the support members in an opposing manner so as to
3 reduce out-of-plane loading, wherein said buoyancy unit has a plurality of stem side female recesses and
4 exterior surface female recesses, the stem side female recesses shaped to mate with rings surrounding a
5 stem pipe and the exterior surface female recesses shaped to accept fasteners used in securing the
6 composite buoyancy unit to the support members.

1 3. A buoyancy system for use with a riser comprising at least four buoyancy units made of
2 multi-layer composite material radially slidable between the support members of a buoyancy can, each
3 said buoyancy unit comprising a plurality of stem side female recesses and exterior surface female
4 recesses, the stem side female recesses shaped to mate with rings surrounding a stem pipe and the exterior
5 surface female recesses shaped to accept fasteners used in securing the composite buoyancy unit to the
6 support members.